uneconomic production, poor management, old and outdated technology and low profitability.

(e) *Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd.:*

The company was referred to BIFR in 1992 and the Government has decided to revive the mill and the company since stands discharged as Sick Industrial Company from the purview of BIFR and the Government has approved the financial restructuring.

Mandya National Paper Mills :

The company was referred to BIFR in 1992 and the BIFR ordered winding up of the mill. The Government has filed appeal against the order of BIFR before AAFIR and the Government has decided to re-start the operations of the mill and privatise it as a going concern.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Closed Mills
1.	Assam	1
2.	Bihar	3
3.	West Bengal	15
4.	Orissa	1
5.	Uttar Pradesh	13
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Punjab	5
8.	Haryana	4
9.	Chandigarh	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10
11.	Rajasthan	5
12.	Gujarat	8
13.	Maharashtra	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7
15.	Andhra Pradesh	14
16.	Karnataka	8
17.	Tamil Nadu	8
18.	Kerala	2
19.	Pondicherry	2
20.	Nagaland	1
	Total	122

Manufacture of Mini Cigarettes by ITC

2182. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw the permission granted to Indian Tobacco Company to manufacture mini cigarettes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any objections in this regard have been received from any quarter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the profit earned by ITC since permission was granted; and

(f) whether the sale of mini cigarettes proposed to be prohibited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Industrial Licences for the manufacture of cigarettes are granted in terms of numbers and not length-wise. The concept of mini cigarettes is relevant from the Excise Duty point of view. Since lower rate of Excise Duty on mini cigarettes has been introduced from 1994-95 and Industrial Licences for the manufacture of cigarettes were issued to M/s. ITC long ago, the question of cancellation of such licences issued under the I(D&R) Act, 1951 does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Bidi Sector has expressed apprehensions regarding lowering of Excise Duty on mini cigarettes as it may affect the Bidi industry. There has, however, been no significant change in the production of bidis since reduction of Excise Duty on mini cigarettes.

(e) M/s. ITC have indicated the following production figures in their Annual Reports for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 in respect of cigarettes :

	Quantity (million nos.)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
1994	48387	29,81,45
1995	50609	33,35,72
1996	60972	41,05,98

Separate figures in respect of mini cigarettes are not available.

(f) No, Sir.

Defrauding of U.B.I. Mumbai

2183. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any branch of the United Bank of India, in Mumbai, was defrauded of Rs. 8 lacs during September, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the *modus operandi* adopted therein; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). United Bank of India have reported that three cheques for Rs. 8 lakhs were issued by a staff of their Kalbadevi Branch at Mumbai. These